Tiara Kerr

Unit 3

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(TITLE)

INTRODUCTORY:

INTRO PARAGRAPH: In todays school system, standardized tests are an important tool, not only for determining what a child knows, but also for representing how well a teacher is teaching and for the school to get funding. With the more testing we see in schools the more children seem to be stressed or shows signs of anxiety. Standardized tests are something that keep evolving over time, becoming more complex and more difficult to understand, as well as occurring more throughout a school year.

SECTION 1:

SECTION 2: For the primary research, I conducted an Interview from a Newaygo Public Schools staff member. With this interview my goal was to get an insight of what it was like for students before, during, and after testing times: their attitudes, behaviors, pressures, etc. During the interview I asked multiple questions about the students, their behaviors and emotions, and about the curriculum in the school. I found that the curriculum is teaching the same material, just in more complex ways. A simple math problem is now done in a breakdown of 6 steps rather than two, in a sense. There is also a lack of penmanship, before there was a whole course taught on it as well as learning how to write in cursive, but over time this has changes due to technology. The testing itself has changed overtime as well. It used to be just one testing a year, but now its multiple times. The school is required to give these tests required by the state in order to get their funding as well as to see how the teachers are doing at their job. The regular testing lets teachers know if the children are retaining what they are taught and in what areas they struggle most in, so the tests have benefits along with the negatives.

The way to prep kids for the tests is to teach them all on the same line. The lessons don’t accommodate to how each child needs to learn something. However, the teachers are all on the same page and you wont find different variations of a topic or lesson. According to my source, there aren’t really any labels placed on those children who do or do not perform well on the standardized tests. In their school district they have help for those students who are struggling to understand what they need to know. Many of the times you even see students who performed well on something helping students around them that may need help understanding.

Pressure is something that is paced not only on the students, but the teachers as well. The way a child performs reflects their teaching. In the student’s case, its more of them putting the pressure on themselves. The teachers are there to help them with what they need, but some students assess themselves when they get their scores back. They put the pressure on themselves to do good because they are afraid of getting a bad score.

SECTION 3: In any good situation there are pros and cons to both sides. Standardized testing is controversial from many standpoints. There are the benefits to see how a child has improved or declined, whether students are retaining knowledge, it’s a way to rate the teachers, and also the scored produced signify the amount of funding a school will get from the state. But just like there are benefits there are also negatives. Some students are below the average line and are not understanding what they need to know for these tests, some students are beyond what average student should know. We also see the pressure on the students to do well. Many students we see have test anxiety, even at a young age.